



Internal coordination – Australia’s approach to the involvement of national quality infrastructure in meeting the objectives of the TBT agreement.

Jennifer Evans
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia



Australia's National Quality Infrastructure

- 1922 Standards Australia - national body responsible for producing documentary standards
- 1938 National Measurement Institute - peak body for metrological (measurement) standards and certified reference materials
- 1947 National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) – private sector, not-for-profit body recognised as national authority for laboratory and RMP accreditation and a peak authority for inspection body and PTP accreditation
- 1991 Joint Accreditation Scheme of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) – national authority for both nations for certification body accreditation and a peak authority for inspection body accreditation

Direction Setting by the Federal Government

Bodies have differing relationships with government but federal government has a role in the strategic direction and requires:

- transparency and impartiality;
- engagement with our government and industry stakeholders; and
- facilitate mutual recognition internationally

Coordination

Stakeholder engagement is a key to NQI's role

- Reaching out to the government agencies and industry associations
- Information gained is analysed and taken into account in the service offered
- Commonwealth Standards and Conformance Advisory Group (CSCAG) facilitates an exchange of information between the NQI and a diverse range of agencies:
 - on developments within the NQI,
 - national policy priorities and
 - a significant focus on trade related issues
- NQI 'working group' focuses on operationalising key Government initiatives

Policy vs Detail

Good policy can be undermined by operational detail

- Technical and scientific considerations in conformity assessment
- Lack of availability of necessary conformity assessment infrastructure – documented standards, laboratory expertise, measurement standards, validated methods, etc.
- Examples:
 - Asbestos – absolute prohibition vs scientific capacity
 - Microbiological analysis of meat – method validation for pathogens



Conclusion

Please talk to us ...
... early